

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDSOL0S0H0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Physalis latiphysa* Waterf.

COMMON NAME: Broad-leaf ground-cherry, Broadleaf groundcherry

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Solanaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Waterfall, Rhodora 60(714): 169. 1958.

TYPE LOCALITY: USA: Arizona: Pima County, Rondstadt Ranch east of the Baboquivari Mountains.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: ARIZ-90142. T.H. Kearney & R.H. Peebles 14425, 23 Sep 1939.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: The genus *Physalis* contains approximately 85 species (Hickman 1993) worldwide. NatureServe (2004) reports that the species *latiphysa*, is in a genus of about 100 species. According to USDA, NRCS (2002), 28 species of *Physalis* occur in North America. Twelve species of *Physalis* are recognized by Lehr (1978), as occurring in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: Herbaceous annual 15-45 cm (6-18 in) tall, commonly hairy, with branched leafy stems. The thin translucent leaf-blades range from ovate to broader than long, 5-7 cm (2-2.8 in) long, with or without a few teeth; the leaf-stalk is about as long as the blade. Petioles are 1.5-7 cm (0.6-2.8 in) long. Solitary flowers with calyces 3-4 mm long with lobes about half that long, on lateral peduncles that are 3-8 mm long. The yellow corollas are dark-spotted and small, 4-6 mm long. Fruiting calyces with sparsely appressed hair, strongly 5-angled, 2.5-4 cm long and 3-4 cm wide. Fruiting berry globose, seeds many and flat.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:

ILLUSTRATIONS: None.

TOTAL RANGE: A southern Arizona endemic, with few locations known.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: From San Bernardino Valley in Cochise County; the Pinaleno Mountains in Graham County; the vicinity of Arivaca Creek in Pima County; the Santa Cruz River in Santa Cruz County.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Herbaceous annual.

PHENOLOGY: Unknown.

BIOLOGY: Unknown.

HABITAT: Washes, often in the shade of shrubs and boulders, in desert scrub, or grasslands.

ELEVATION: 3,000 to 4,700 feet (915-1,434 meters).

 **EXPOSURE:**

SUBSTRATE: Granitic gravelly soils.

PLANT COMMUNITY: East upland, Chihuahuan Desert Scrub, *Flourensia-larrea* Association, and in Fremont cottonwood and Goodding willow riparian forest understory. Mixed shrub and grassland. Associated plant species include: *Amaranthus palmeri* (Palmer's Amaranth), *Apodanthera undulata* (melon-loco), *Celtis* sp. (hackberry), *Cucurbita digitata* (finger-leaf gourd), *Flourensia* sp. (tarbush), *Fraxinus* sp. (ash), *Larrea tridentata* (creosote bush), *Platanus* sp. (sycamore), *Populus fremontii* (Fremont cottonwood), *Prosopis* sp. (mesquite), *Salix gooddingii* (Goodding willow), and *Solanum elaeagnifolium* (silver-leaf nightshade).

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

None

STATE STATUS:

None

OTHER STATUS:

Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Little known on biology, habitat, and current distribution.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: USFS - Coronado National Forest; Private.



SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Revised: 1999-11-19 (RHB)
2000-01-25 (JCP)
2004-04-20 (SMS)

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